

PATENT

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 25, 2005, has been received and carefully considered. In this Response, claims 1-15 and 33-36 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Allowability of Claims 16-32

The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication at page 6 of the Office Action that claims 16-32 are allowed.

Rejections of Claims 1-15 and 33-36

At page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-2, 4-7, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Cooper (U.S. Patent No. 5,202,761). At page 3 of the Office Action, claims 3 and 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper. At page 5 of the Office Action, claims 33-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper and further in view of Cooper (U.S. Patent No. 6,836,295).

Regardless of whether the claims are obvious or anticipated as alleged, in the interest of moving the present Application forward, Claims 1-15 and 33-36 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

The Applicants believe no additional fees are due, but if the Commissioner believes additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-0441.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date

10/24/05



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